

The Department of State refers the Embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the diplomatic note of the Embassy dated February 19, 1990 concerning the status of the Commercial Office of Bulgaria located outside of the Washington, D.C. area, and to the personnel assigned to that office.

As noted in the Department of State circular note of July 31, 1989, absent an express written bilateral agreement between the United States and the sending state establishing a financial, economic, trade or commercial office and the conditions for its establishment, replacements at such offices no longer will be accredited as diplomatic agents. Further, the office may continue to function in New York only if it is incorporated into an existing New York consulate of the sending state, or, if there is no consular office in New York, its status is changed to a miscellaneous foreign government office (none of the personnel of which enjoy diplomatic status or immunities).

Upon the request of the Embassy of Bulgaria, the Department has reviewed its records concerning the establishment of the Bulgarian Trade Office in New York, including the documents referred to in the

Embassy's note of February 19. The Department has determined that there is no express bilateral agreement between the United States and Bulgaria establishing the New York office as part of the Bulgarian diplomatic mission and according privileges and immunities to the head of that office through accreditation to the mission. Rather, the Department has permitted the Chief of the Trade Office in New York to be accepted in diplomatic status and listed on the Diplomatic List in Washington as a unilateral policy decision. Accordingly, the replacement of the Trade Office chief will not be accredited as a diplomatic agent.

Department of State,

Washington,

AUG 24 1990

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